

I want to object specifically to Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

It is clear that the FCC itself (along with our corrupt Congress and executive branch) have become part of the apparatus of repression of freedom of speech. The idea behind the first amendment is that there should be many voices and from this, truth will emerge and the citizens will benefit. What we have now is few voices and few people benefitting -- mainly the rich and privileged. It is a disservice to the citizens of this country, unamerican and unacceptable.

Thank you.